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Agri-News

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2004 COTTON ACREAGE UP 5 PERCENT; SOYBEANS UP 3 PERCENT

Tennessee farmers intend to plant more soybeans, cotton, and dark-type tobacco acreage in 2004 and less corn, sorghum, and burley tobacco, based on a recent survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. Winter wheat and hay acreage to be harvested in 2004 is also expected to decline from a year earlier. “These survey results show an early indication of producers’ intentions to plant,” stated State Statistician Debra Kenerson. “Actual planted acreage may vary depending on weather, production costs, and anticipated prices at harvest, as well as effects of this report.”

Prospective **soybean** acreage, at 1.18 million acres, is up 3 percent from a year ago and the highest acreage in four years. Planted acreage of **corn** is forecast at 650,000 acres, 8 percent below 2003 and the lowest acreage since 2000. The 2004 **sorghum** acreage is forecast at 35,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from the previous year. Tennessee’s **cotton** acreage is forecast at 590,000 acres, up 5 percent from 2003 and the highest acreage since 2001. **Winter wheat** seedings for the 2004 season totaled 400,000 acres, unchanged from December and 30,000 acres less than last year. This is the lowest acreage since 1985 when 340,000 acres were sown. **Hay** producers intend to harvest an estimated 2.0 million acres, 30,000 acres less than in 2003.

The State’s **burley** tobacco area for harvest in 2004 is forecast at 27,000 acres, down 4 percent from the previous year and the lowest level since 1923. Other tobacco types grown in Tennessee all show increases in potential acreage for the 2004 planting season: Type 22 **Eastern dark-fired** acreage is forecast at 5,400 acres, up 200 acres from a year ago; Type 23 **Western dark-fired**, is forecast at 420 acres, 20 acres more last year; and Type 35 **dark air-cured**, is forecast at 560 acres, up 20 acres from 2003.

UNITED STATES: **Corn** planted area for all purposes is estimated at 79.0 million acres, up fractionally from both 2002 and 2003. Expected acreage is up from last year throughout much of the Corn Belt as growers are hoping to take advantage of higher corn prices. However, most States in the Southeast and southern Great Plains are intending to decrease their corn plantings as producers are switching to soybeans and cotton due to more favorable prices relative to corn. **Soybean** growers intend to plant an estimated 75.4 million acres, up 3 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the largest planted area on record and a rebound from the three year decline in acreage. Current high prices are encouraging many producers to plant more soybeans, with the largest acreage increases expected in North Dakota, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Minnesota.

Winter wheat planted area for the 2004 crop is 43.4 million acres, down 3 percent from 2003. **Cotton** plantings for 2004 are expected to total 14.4 million acres, 7 percent above last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 14.2 million acres, also a 7 percent increase. All States are expecting more acreage than last year except for North Carolina and Mississippi. **Burley tobacco**, at 157,200 acres, is up 1 percent from a year ago but 1 percent below two years ago. **Hay** producers expect to harvest 63.7 million acres of all hay in 2004, up 1 percent from last year.

Planted Acreage, 2002-2003 and Intended 2004, Tennessee and United States

Crop	2002	2003	2004 ¹	2004/2003	2002	2003	2004 ¹	2004/2003
Tennessee					United States			
	1,000 Acres		Percent		1,000 Acres		Percent	
Corn	690	710	650	92	78,894	78,736	79,004	100
Sorghum	30	45	35	78	9,589	9,420	8,600	91
Winter wheat	470	430	400	93	41,766	44,945	43,372	97
Soybeans	1,160	1,150	1,180	103	73,963	73,404	75,411	103
Cotton, all	565	560	590	105	13,957.9	13,483.1	14,401.6	107
Tobacco, all ²	35.90	34.14	33.38	98	428.31	416.21	414.55	100
E. Dark-fired (22)	5.00	5.20	5.40	104	7.45	7.70	8.00	104
W. Dark-fired (23)	0.39	0.40	0.42	105	2.79	2.80	2.92	104
Burley (31)	30.00	28.00	27.00	96	158.70	156.20	157.20	101
One-sucker (35)	0.51	0.54	0.56	104	2.61	2.74	2.86	104
Hay ²	1,980	2,030	2,000	99	63,942	63,342	63,731	101

¹ Intended plantings for 2004. ² Acres harvested.